

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have previously been canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended slightly to more succinctly describe the structure that is clearly shown in the Figures. More particularly, the side by side relationship of the balloons is described precisely as it is shown in for example Figs. 23, 28, 29, 34, 46 and 51-64. As such, no new matter is being added.

Claims 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lam (U.S. Patent No. 5,607,444) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,524). Applicant respectfully traverses. The Board of Appeals found that the specification did not offer a precise definition of the term "side by side" and did not preclude an axial alignment of the balloon. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendment to the specification cures such deficiency. The invention as claimed in independent claim 8 is readily distinguishable from the cited references to the extent that Lam does not teach a method wherein the stent is mounted about the balloons which are arranged in a side by side relationship. Nowhere in the Lam patent does it show a stent being mounted on a long balloon and a short balloon that are positioned side by side. Moreover, claim 8 recites in pertinent part "advancing the catheter and stent through the vascular system to a position proximal of the bifurcation." As the catheter and stent are being advanced through the vascular system to the position proximal of the bifurcation, the stent remains mounted on the long balloon and the short balloon which are positioned side by side. This method step is not shown in Lam nor is it possible based on the construction of the Lam catheter where the balloons are oriented axially along the catheter shaft. Thus, it is respectfully urged that claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the Lam prior art reference and that obviousness is effectively avoided. Likewise, dependent claims 9-14 are distinguishable over the Lam prior art reference for the same reasons as independent claim 8.

The Kim patent does not teach any particular type of balloon catheter for use in delivery of the stent disclosed therein. Further, Kim fails to disclose any type of stent structure that arguably could be mounted on two balloons mounted side by side as set forth in claim 8 of the present application. Thus, the Kim patent adds nothing to the shortcomings of the Lam patent in maintaining the rejection of claims 8-14.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants earnestly believe the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

It is respectfully requested that the RCE and this Amendment be entered and the fee paid by credit card with this electronic transmission. Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 06-2425 for any additional fees in connection with this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
FULWIDER PATTON LLP

By: /John S. Nagy/
John S. Nagy
Registration No. 30,664

JSN:jeb - GOH/lm
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
181939.1